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COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941

To the Coalville Urban District Council.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a report respecting the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District for the year 1941.

The report follows the instructions contained in Circular 2604,dated the 24th.March,1942,and is prepared on the lines indicated in Circulars 2314 and 2067, dated 26th.March 1941,and 19th.July 1940,respectively.

For the first few months of the year the Sanitary Inspectors were almost wholly engaged in duties connected with the Government's Evacuation scheme, but a full-time Billeting Officer and staff now having been appointed, the normal work of the Dept. has been again made possible.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.(in acres) 6,453.
Population (1931 census) 21,880.
Population (estimated,middle 1941) 24,610.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941), according to rate Books. 6563.
Rateable Value. £107,802.
Sum represented by a penny rate. £400.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	For I.M.,etc. M	For I.M.,etc. F	For B.R., M	For B.R., F
Total.	214	193	205	189
Legit.	210	192	201	188
Illegit.	4	1	4	1

Total (male and female) 407 394

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1941. 16.0

Still Births.	For I.M.,etc. M.	For I.M.,etc. F.	For B.rate M.	For B.rate F.
Total.	11	8	11	7
Legit.	10	7	10	6
Illegit.	1	1	1	1

Total (male and female) 19 18

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births. 43.7

Deaths	Total.	M.	F.
	311	158	153

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1941. 12.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis.	0	0
Other Maternal Causes.	0	0
Total.	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births. 54
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 54.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34
" " Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There have been no changes in ordinary laboratory facilities, ambulance facilities, nursing in the home, and hospital services.

Whilst local collieries have ample ambulance facilities of their own provision, there appears to be room for improved facilities for other industries and for the general public. The requirements of the latter are at present covered by the St. John Ambulance Association, which, with the facilities at their disposal, preform the duties in an extremely efficient manner. I understand, however that as a result of arrangements made between thetbody and the Saturday Hospital Fund, calls on the service have increased considerably, and to such an extent that there is delay in securing an ambulance on some occasions when the need is urgent. In my opinion, an additional vehicle, with driver, is required, so that the needs of the district may be adequately met.

A statistical return of the work preformed in the County Laboratory is appended, as pertaining to this District. The total number of examinations was 9,240 and of this number, 178 examinations were for this Area.

Sewage and Water analyses	72
Milk examinations (bacteriological)	39
Sputa for T.B.	26
Swabs for diphtheria	23
Urine (general and bacteriological	8
Blood for Wassermann Test	6
Widal tests for typhoid fever	3
Hair for ringworm	1
	178

In addition to the above, 35 samples of milk were submitted to Cambridge University Laboratory for T.B. examination.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The sources of the public water supply are the

same as indicated in previous reports.

55 samples of town water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, with the following results:-

Whitwick. Filtered		Ellistown. Filtered		Broom Leys P.Stat. and Forest Rock Reservoir.	From taps in the District
Raw	and Chlorinated	Raw	and Chlorinated		
4-	7- 1+	6-	8-	3+ (crude) 6- (chlor)	18- 2+

Chemical analysis showed that the water was satisfactory.

During 1941 the conversion of the pumping plant at Broom Leys pumping station from steam to electrically driven borehole pumps has been carried out.

The Bardon - Battleflat Water scheme has also been put into operation, a pressure supply now being available in both areas. This entailed the laying of over 3 miles of main, made up as follows-

8" main	-	1370 yards.
6" "	-	2096 "
4" "	-	1953 "

and the provision of a boosting plant at Broom Leys pumping station.

In addition to the above 128 yards of 4" and 74 yards of 6" mains were laid as extensions to ordinary supplies.

An arrangement has been made with adjoining Authorities for water supplies for emergency purposes to be obtained in tanks. A survey of all private wells in the area has also been carried out and a schedule of useable wells drawn up for emergency purposes.

6 houses formerly drawing water from private wells were connected to the town mains during the year, in addition to connections to 8 houses formerly using a private piped supply.

10 samples of water from private wells were submitted for analysis and all were found to be unsatisfactory. Action is being taken to ensure a wholesome supply in these cases.

4 private wells were closed during the year, and 1 cleansed.

The amount of water pumped during 1941 was 197,423,000 gallons, a decrease of 15,898,000 gallons on the amount pumped during 1940.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There were no extensions during the year.

No extensions were made at either of the Sewage Disposal Works.

3 houses have been redrained and 11 have had extensions or alterations to existing drains.

Closet Accomodation.

The closet accomodation in the district at the end of 1941 was as follows:-

Water closets.	6587
Privies with fixed receptacles	258
" " movable "	228

During the year 1 privy with fixed receptacle was abolished. New work accounted for an addition of 27 W.Cs.

Public Cleansing.

No change has been made in the methods adopted for the cleansing of the district during the year, and this work continues to be carried out satisfactor

The numbers of the various receptacles in use at the end of the year were:-

Dustbins.	6351
Dry ashpits.	16
Middens.	195

During the year the amount of refuse collected and disposed of was:-

Pail and midden refuse.	430	loads.
Dustbin and dry ashpit refuse.	4461	"
Market refuse.	53	"
Slaughterhouse refuse.	187	"

Salvage is collected by the Local Authority as part of the existing cleansing services and also by business and tradespeople in the town. Details of these private collections are not known. One voluntary organisation makes a collection of waste paper, which does not amount to more than a few cwts. per month. Salvage collection covers the whole of the Urban Area and all houses are covered at least once a month. Where salvage is heavy, collection is much more frequent. This service interferes with refuse collection to some extent, not yet readily to be estimated.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The particulars given below are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this report.

Nature of Inspection.	Inspections.	Revisits.
Dwelling Houses (All purposes)	97	63
Tents, Vans, etc.	14	-
Slaughterhouses (Meat)	3	-
Food premises	181	1
Dairies and Cowsheds.	95	11
Offensive Trades. (Fish frying only)	23	6
Animal keeping.	9	-
Workshops etc.	97	6
Shops.	-	-
Other premises.	75	36
	594	123

In addition the undermentioned work was carried out.

Inspections re Emergency Water Supplies	267
" of meat and other foods.	464
" re Refuse collection etc.	52

Premises disinfected after infect. disease.	128
Lots of bedding disinfected	117
Milk samples for bact.examination	38
do. T.B. examination	35
Water samples (by Sanitary Inspector)	11
Visits re Infectious disease	117
Premises disinfected of vermin.	12

NOTICES

PRELIMINARY.	Housing.	Others.
Outstanding on 1st.January.	74	107
Issued during year.	6	134
Complied with during year.	13	105
Statutory action necessary.	9	13
Outstanding on 31st.December.	58	123

STATUTORY	Housing	Others
Outstanding on 1st.January.	12	10
Issued during year.	9	13
Complied with during year.	4	9
Outstanding on 31st.December.	17	14

SUMMARY ACTION.

One summons was issued for failure to comply with a notice requiring the cleansing of dirty premises. A conviction was obtained, and at a later date, the work was carried out by the Local Authority on the tenant's default.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no privately owned Swimming Baths in the area.

The Public Swimming Baths have been closed since the outbreak of war, the building being used for Civil Defence purposes.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the area is generally satisfactory.

It has not been necessary to resort to school closure on account of infectious disease.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

97 inspections and 6 re-visits were made during the year.

Lists were submitted in respect of 4 outworkers.

SECTION D.

HOUSING. Little work was possible during the year under existing Housing legislation, only 63 inspections being made.

A number of houses which were included in Clearance Areas or which were the subjects of individual Demolition. Orders had again to be put into temporary use for housing evacuated families, the influx of industrial workers and evacuees having put a very severe strain on housing accommodation. The houses so used were repaired and improved as far as circumstances allowed to make them as satisfactory as possible for the occupants. Conditions outlined above rendered it impossible to deal with existing overcrowding cases, 45 of which, together with 1 new case, were recorded at the close of the year.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

There were on the register at the end of 1941 -

Cowkeepers.	48
Retail purveyors.	80

A number of the retail purveyors bring milk into the district from outside areas. 106 inspections and revisits of cowsheds and purveyor's premises were made during the year.

13 minor contraventions of the Orders were remedied, as regards cowsheds, but owing to limitation of supplies and shortages of labour no major structural alterations could be carried out.

4 contraventions respecting purveyors' premises were also remedied.

38 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination as follows-

Pasteurised	2 - - -1	satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	1 - -1	" ---
Accredited.	2 - - -1	" 1 unsatisfactory.
Non-designated.	33 - - -25	satisfactory: 2 grade II and 6 grade III

The standard of examination adopted is that laid down by the Milk (Special Designations) Order for Accredited Milk.

The unsatisfactory sample of Accredited milk (produced outside this area) was reported to the Licensing Authority.

The unsatisfactory 'Pasteurised' sample gave a plate count of 120,000, and was reported to the Pasteurisers. It was an isolated example in an otherwise very satisfactory record.

4 of the 8 unsatisfactory non-designated samples were produced outside the area, and the responsible officer was notified in each case . One sample was produced by a cowkeeper new to milk production, and visits to the farm and suggestions as to production and sterilisation methods achieved the desired results. A further unsatisfactory sample was obtained from a producer-retailer who gave up business shortly afterwards. The two remaining unsatisfactory

samples were from producers with otherwise satisfactory records and investigations were in progress at the end of the year, although in both cases changes in farm workers had taken place just prior to sampling.

35 samples of milk were submitted for examination for Tuberculosis. 6 of these were curdled and 1 broken on arrival at the laboratory: 27 samples were negative and 1 positive. As a result of the latter sample 2 cows were slaughtered under the Order from one farm in the area.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, 5 licences to retail Tuberculin Tested; 1 to retail Accredited; and 1 to retail Pasteurised milk were granted.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

All trade slaughtering was concentrated under the Ministry of Food at the Co-operative Society's premises in Ravenstone Rd. As slaughtering is also carried on here for adjoining Authorities, accomodation and facilities, which were formerly seriously restricted, have been improved by the addition of extra slaughter-halls, hanging accomodation and cold storage room.

Almost the whole of the animals slaughtered at these premises were inspected.

The keeping and slaughtering of pigs by private householders is increasing, but not all the premises where slaughter takes place are satisfactory. 343 animals were slaughtered under licence during the year, but it was possible to inspect only 201 of these, due to employment of staff on other duties.

The results of all meat inspections are summarised below--

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed (if known)	1350	438	23	7608	1155	10574
Number inspected.	1350	438	23	7596	1013	10420
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	3	-	Total weight in lbs. 96
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	186	41	-	150	10	3006
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	13.7%	9.3%	-	2%	0.9%	
Tuberculosis Only. Whole carcases condemned.	1	2	-	-	1	1907
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	185	58	-	-	71	10876
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	13.8%	13.7%	-	-	7.1%	-
Mechanical injuries etc. parts or organs.	12	-	-	3	5	729

A number of inspections of food, other than meat, were also made at shops and warehouses and the following condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Bacon	651lbs.	Jam	381lbs.
Brawn	39 "	Oranges	9 cases.
Veal loaf.	788 "	Milk.	28 tins.
Canned meats.	111 "	Bread.	1636 lbs.
Sausage.	269 "	Eggs.	6196
Cheese.	10 "		

36 inspections of butchers' shops were made during the year and 146 of other food shops, stores or food preparation premises.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

The County Council administers these Acts and Regulations.

Section F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

Table showing the total notifications received under age groups, and the deaths from infectious diseases under the same age groups.

NOTIFICATIONS

	Total.	Under. 1 yr	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Smallpox.	0												
Scarlet Fever.	67		2	4	5	6	25	13	5	4	3		
Diphtheria.	25		2		1	2	7	6	4	3			
Puerperal Pyrexia.	0												
Erysipelas.	9								2		1	6	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	2											
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	13	1			1	1	4	3			2	1	
Whooping Cough.	153	8	18	26	23	19	57	1	1				
Measles	130	5	15	24	14	19	48	2	1	2			
Typhoid Fever.	1				1x								
Paratyphoid Fever.	1										1		
Pneumonia	47	4	3	5	2	1	6		5	3	4	6	8

x-diagnosis not confirmed

DEATHS

Smallpox	0												
Scarlet Fever.	0												
Diphtheria.	1						1						
Puerperal Pyrexia.	0												
Erysipelas.	0												
Encephalitis Leth.	2x										2		
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1x								1				
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	2							1			1		
Whooping Cough.	1												
Measles.	0												
Typhoid Fever.	0												
Pneumonia.	15	2	2	3							1	3	4

x- not notified died in hospital.

Table showing monthly notifications.

	Typ. & Para.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph-theria	Pneu-monia.	Ery-sipelas	Oph. Neon.	Puer. Pry.	C.S.F.	Who-Cough.	Measle
January.		10	3	4				2	28	49
February.		9	6	9	1				25	48
March		7	1	3				4	24	4
April.		5	1	4	1			3	25	7
May.	1	12	4	2	1	1		1	19	17
June.	1	4		2				3	11	5
July.		2	1		1				9	
August.		6	3	1					2	
September.		3	1	1	3					
October.		3	1	4					2	
November.		4	2	6	1				2	
December.		2	2	11	1	1			6	
Totals.	2	67	25	47	9	2	0	13	153	130

Diphtheria.

During the year, 25 cases of diphtheria were notified, with 1 death. Of these, 18 cases occurred in children under 15 years, and 7 in persons over 15 years.

It is interesting here to record the number of cases, with deaths, notified, in the last ten years.

Year.	No. Notified.	Deaths.	Annual Death Rate.
1932	3	1	.04
1933	3	1	.05
1934	1	1	.05
1935	56	5	.23
1936	34	4	.17
1937	30	3	.12
1938	80	4	.16
1939	91	3	.12
1940	77	6	.21
1941	25	1	.04

It will be observed, therefore, that the number of cases notified is the smallest since 1934, that the number of deaths is the lowest since 1934, and that in fact the death rate per 1,000 population is the lowest since 1932.

In 1940, a satisfactory start was made with immunisation against this deadly disease, and at the end of that year 19.6% of the under fives had been immunised, and 47.7% of the 5-15 age group. These figures, obviously, were capable of considerable improvement.

I regret that I am unable to report any material progress during 1941. It had been intended to continue with the scheme in which the services of the local doctors were used, payment being made on a per capita basis. During 1941, the Ministry of Health recommended that immunisation should be carried out on a sessional basis, and when requests were made for material for use by doctors locally working on the former method, some demur was met with as the sessional basis was not being adopted. As a result, local practitioners were asked if they would be prepared to work on a sessional basis, but they felt unable to accept the terms offered. Finally, arrangements were made with the County Council, through the medium of Dr. Fairer, for members of the County Council medical staff to carry out the work, and in the autumn it was found possible to make a start. The result of this delay was that only 74 children under 5 years were treated, and 115 in the 5-15 age group.

In the aggregate, it is estimated that 42% of all children under 15 years had been immunised at the end of the year, a disappointing figure considering the satisfactory start made in the preceding year. It is expected that much more satisfactory progress will be recorded in succeeding years.

It would be unwise to attempt to attribute the considerable improvement in the incidence of the disease noted above to immunisation so far carried out. Diphtheria is prone to exhibit periods of improvement in incidence under ordinary conditions, and it is stated that to secure really satisfactory results from immunisation at least 70% of the child population should be immunised. However, I think it would probably be fair to attribute some small part of the improvement to the immunisations already performed.

Of the 18 cases notified in 1941, 4 had been immunised previously with no deaths amongst the immunised.

Strenuous attempts will be made to popularise immunisation in succeeding years, and with the arrangements now in force, I think we can look forward with confidence to a marked increase in the numbers immunised, and to a consequent improvement in the position generally.

Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis, and all deaths from the disease during the year.

Age period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESP.		NON -RESP.		RESP.		NON-RESP.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1								
1-5	1		2	3				1
5-15			6	2				
15-25	2	6		1		1	1	
25-35	2	4	1		2	3		
35-45	1	1			2	1		
45-55	2	1				1		1
55-65	1				4	1		
65+								
Total	9	12	9	6	8	7	1	2

DEATHS.

Table showing causes of deaths, and sex distribution of deaths, in 1941.

Cause of death.	Total	M.	F.
All causes.	311	158	153
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	1	-	1
Diphtheria.	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of Resp. System.	15	8	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	3	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases.	-	-	-
Influenza.	4	1	3
Measles.	-	-	-
Ac.Polio-myelitis etc.	1	1	-
Ac.Inf.Enceph.	2	-	2
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus(F).	3	2	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	2	1	1
Cancer of Breast.	3	-	3
Cancer of all other sites.	26	9	17
Diabetes.	7	4	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions.	27	10	17
Heart Disease.	47	18	29
Other diseases of Circ.System.	7	6	1
Bronchitis.	28	16	12
Pneumonia.	15	9	6
Other Resp Diseases.	3	-	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duod.	5	4	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	-	-	-
Appendicitis.	1	1	-
Other Digestive Diseases.	5	4	1
Nephritis.	10	5	5
Puer.and post-abort,sepsis.	-	-	-
Other maternal causes.	-	-	-
Premature Birth	10	5	5
Congenital Malformations,Birth Injuries,and Infant Diseases.	5	2	3
Suicide.	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents.	5	5	-
Other Violent Causes.	21	18	3
All other Causes.	52	26	26
[illegible]	2	2	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During 1941, 22 deaths occurred amongst infants under 1 year. This gives a rate of 54 per 1,000 live births registered, compared with a rate of 57 for 1940, 49 for 1939, and 79 for 1938.

Deaths were attributed to the following causes.

Cause of Death	Total.	Cent.		North.		N-East.		South.		S-East.		We	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	
Prematurity.	10					2	3	1		1		1	
Bronchitis.	2				1							1	
Broncho-Pneumonia.	2							1			1		
Diseases of the Newborn.	1						1						
Congenital Malformations.	1										1		
Other causes	6	1			1			2		1		1	
Totals	22	1			2	2	4	4		2	2	3	

Table showing comparison between figures for Coalville Urban District and the available corresponding (provisional) figures for England and Wales.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during 1941.

	Rate per 1,000 total pop.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 pop.								Rate 1,00	
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever.	Smallpox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Enteritis under 2.	Total Death
England and Wales.	14.2	00.51	12.9	0.0	-	0.03	0.0	0.06	0.07	0.19	5.1	
Coalville U.D.	16.0	00.73	12.6	0.0	-	0.00	0.0	0.04	0.04	0.16	0.0	
Coalville U.D. '40.	15.9	00.50	14.0	0.0	-	0.04	0.0	0.08	0.21	0.76	2.6	

I have to thank you, Mr. Chairman and Councillors, for your continued consideration and courtesy, and once more it is my great pleasure to place on record the assistance and co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector (to whom part of this report is due) and Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Your Obedient Servant,

Andrew Hamilton.

Medical Officer of Health.